



The President's Daily Brief

4 September 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Chinese Communist Party's new constitution is less a guideline for the future than a reflection of today's political situation in China. (Page 1)

Fighting around the Cambodian provincial capital of Kompong Cham is increasing. (Page 2)

A Soviet submarine has left Cuban waters prematurely with a damaged bow. (Page 3)

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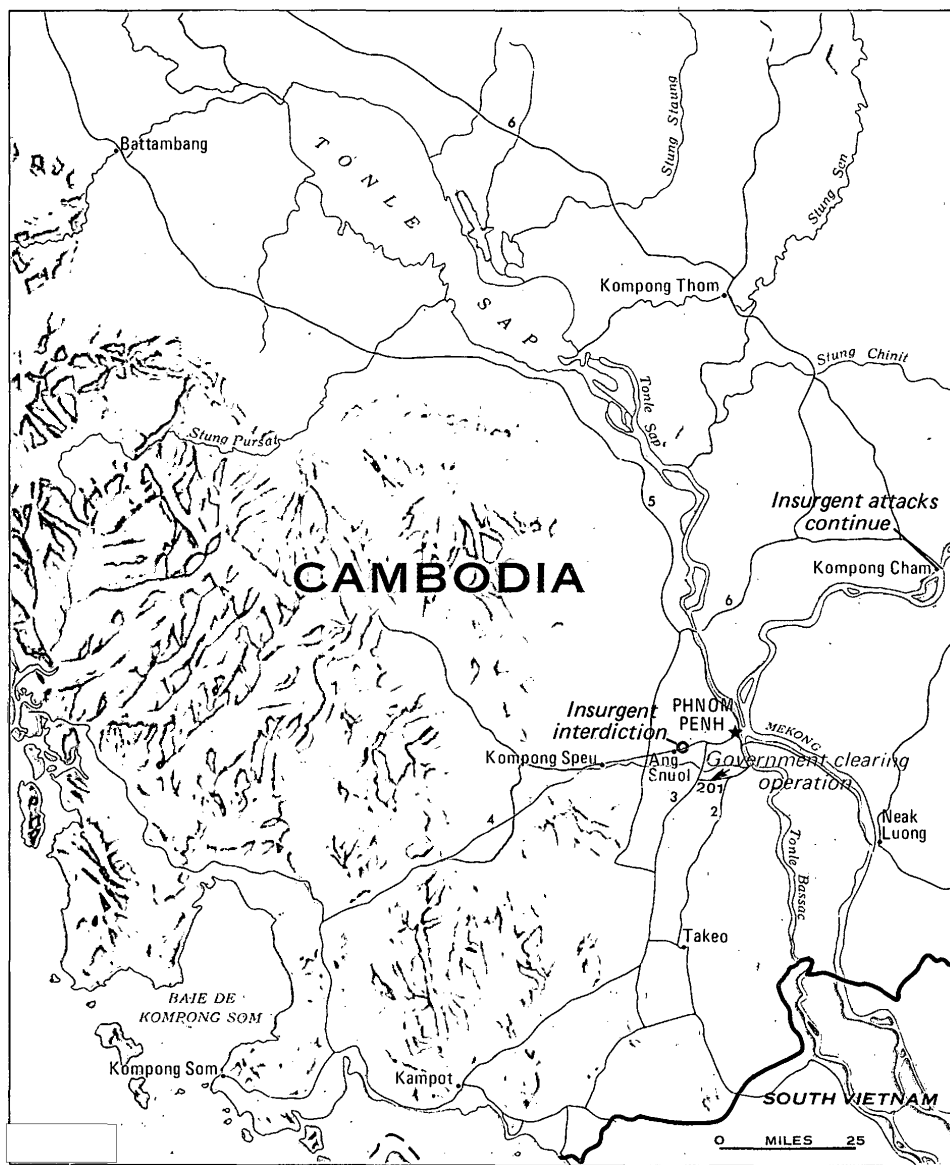
CHINA

The new constitution adopted by the Chinese Communist Party at its recent congress largely reflects the political situation in China today, rather than providing a precise guideline for the future. The drafters did make an effort to prepare the party for a China without Mao by omitting previous adulation of the chairman's thought, but apparently could not reach agreement on a scheme for succession. The charter notes only that "millions of successors" must be trained.

No provision was made for re-establishing the position of secretary general, the powerful chief administrator of the party.

The omission suggests that the post is still too controversial to discuss openly; its last occupant, Teng Hsiao-ping, was purged during the Cultural Revolution for obstructing Mao's policies. It is likely that Shanghai party boss Chang Chun-chiao is now the secretary general, and it is possible that he may prefer to remain without title in the interest of avoiding controversy.

The constitution is a mixture of moderation and revolutionary rhetoric concerning domestic politics. It is susceptible of differing interpretations, especially the sections calling for many more "revolutions" in the future and daring cadre to "go against the tide," without defining the ground rules for such actions. Wang Hung-wen, the young radical from Shanghai who was elected a vice chairman of the party, interpreted the document in a speech to the congress as a militant call for continued political struggle.



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CAMBODIA

Khmer insurgent pressure against Kompong Cham is increasing. Throughout the weekend, insurgent forces shelled government positions in and around the besieged city and probed its defensive perimeter. Government troops have repelled the probes. The US Defense Attaché in Phnom Penh reports, nevertheless, that the situation at Kompong Cham is precarious.

The government is trying to bolster the city's defenses. Over 300 fresh troops have been shuttled in by helicopter during the past few days, and more reinforcements are to follow. A Cambodian Navy riverine force of 16 vessels has moved up the Mekong to provide fire and logistic support to government ground units at Kompong Cham.

West of Phnom Penh, the insurgents still hold a short section of Route 4 near Ang Snuol. To the south of Phnom Penh, units of the Cambodian Army's 3rd Division conducting clearing operations near Route 201 are still meeting resistance. Twelve miles northeast of the capital, the government has launched several small sweep operations along the Mekong's east bank to disrupt insurgent harassing attacks in that sector.

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: A Soviet E-II class nuclear-powered submarine is leaving the Caribbean prematurely with a damaged bow. A light cruiser, tanker, and the rescue tug that is usually stationed in Cuba are escorting the submarine into the Atlantic. A Soviet destroyer and diesel-powered submarine remain in Cuban waters.

China-Vietnam: Peking announced this morning the arrival of a small freighter last Saturday at Dong Ha, a port controlled by the North Vietnamese in South Vietnam's Quang Tri Province. A New China News Agency broadcast described it as the first shipment to Dong Ha of aid to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam under terms of a 1973 "emergency supplementary free economic assistance agreement." This may be the same ship noted in an intercept that was scheduled to make a delivery between August 15 and 20 to a Communist-held area in northern South Vietnam.

Libya: Petroleum Minister Mabruk has told Western oil companies they have a month to decide how to react to 51-percent nationalization of their interests in Libya. He did not say what Libya will do if the companies refuse to go along. Mabruk stated that meanwhile they can pump and export oil at pre-nationalization rates of production, but added that 51 percent of the oil will belong to the Libyan Government. Since Sunday, a government official has been stationed at the docks insisting that a document be executed for each ship acknowledging Libya's ownership of 51 percent of the oil loaded on board.

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